Jim Garrison, from Harold Weisberg 3/16/68

Evariste Rodriguez interview.

Rodriguez lives behind the Montmartre Lounge that Orest Pena bought as a business for his brother Ruperto (who later went bankrupt operating a separate one of his own and now is in New York working in an uptown plastics factory), in a separate frame building on the street crossing Camp. He was sick, mumps having declined into orchitis. He had been unwilling to be interviewed and prior to strange happenings to others had feared even talking. ~~interviewed~~. The interview is on tape. I gave the tape to Lynn Feisel.

You have an old name on me in this

There was quite a language barrier. Evvie speaks no English and understands little. Orest Pena, who acted as translater, would be easier for me to understand if I had a translater for him.

I showed Evvie the collection of pictures Louis Ivon gave me. It is incomplete but includes most.

He identified Pepe Mayoral as a man he knew, had seen in the Habana, and who had robbed the safe at the Court of the Two Sisters. He is now in Panama, selling wine to restaurants, as I understood it.

He recognized Shaw's picture but disclosed no personal observation of him. He has heard Shaw has been seen at La Marina. A Nicaraguan seaman, a customer of the Habana Bar who also works at the Balahie Restaurant along the lake, presumeably has or can have some information on Shaw. Apparently one Sergio Marais, Pena bartender, will know this man.

Dago Garner- he took a long look and didn't identify.
Howard-thinks he has seen.
Dalzell-thinks he has seen, several times.
Beckham-thinks he has seen.
Jack Lawrence-long look-thinks he has seen.
Shown the "key" group photo, with some seeming recognitions.

A year ago Orest told me that Evvie had twice been shot at in the bar and had received other cautions, as a concequence of which he ~~[illegible]~~ threatened to quit if Orest asked another question about it. Because of his illness (two days earlier his fever had been 102.6) I didn't carry many points as far as they should have been. However, I did get him to identify the first shooting as by a Mexican type garbed Hell's Angel style. The names of witnesses who might identify the gunman are on the tape. ~~I have in a note that~~ Tony, owner of Espana, ~~also~~ a Spaniard, Nicanor; Andrecito, a Puerto Rican, who warned Evvie, having seen the initial movements of the gunman.

(Leather jacket, Leather boots.)

There is some confirmation of one of the more interesting identifications, that of Gerry Patrick Hemming (by Ophelia Navarre). Evvie says he knows Hemming. I showed him the picture I got from Howard also. Shown the picture of Howard looking like an unshaved movie heavy, he registered a strong, affirmative reaction (Ophelia also).

Rodriguez quoted the late Amanda Jarvis about the Oswald-drunk incident man. She was interviewed by the FBI in a defamation of Pena but this evidence was not adduced or, if it was, wasn't included in the FBI report.

He was at Pedrocito's restaurant, at the next corner, where El Cid now is, early in the morning on several occasions, with Oswald. She stopped off there mornings to get a cup of coffee and a snack for Evvie as she went to work. This Mexican was a newspaperman who had a receeding hairline. Ev and Orest both put their hands to both temples to indicate it receeded at both sides. The word used to describe the restaurant is "casa", but I believe reference was not to the dwelling. Pedrocito opened early in the morning. Evvie was on until 8 and Amanda got there by seven.

These men, the real or a counterfeited Oswald and the Mexican, were at Pena's on two occasions prior to the "drunk", each visit separated from the others by several days. He placed the date of the "drunk" as separated by a full night from the first Oswald visit to Bringuier's (He saw them in the doorway, which is not consistent with Bringuier's account). He placed the time at about 4 a.m. Thus the "drunk" was about 7/30 or 7/31. He or Ophelia, who also saw the incident, said "Oswald" was not drunk when he entered and, after the vomit, left as though he weren't.

Orest thinks that Patricia was also there, for he was then going with her and she wasn't working. On these occasions she customarily stayed up with him and he usually worked until about 5 a.m. He also was a witness but was not close.

Orest also thinks it might be desireably to interview Mrs. Rodriguez, who worked for him part-time until they adopted a child. It was not, on this occasion, possible. However, he has now obtained a tape recorder and may undertake this himself. He has no pictures.

This is one of several consistent descriptions of a Mexican companion of Oswald not quite consistent with what Dean Andrews testified to. Among the possibilities, there were more than one or Andrews introduced a slight and quite diverting error. However, in all stories this or these Mexican(s) disappear from New Orleans after the 8/9/63 arrest. The Habana Bar versions have him drinking coffee early mornings nearby, with the Oswald that he had to that bar on several earlier occasions. They in no way suggest a "fist-city" type.

Orest thinks there is something mysterious about the cancer Amanda developed + from which she died within two months of its discovery.